Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether the Government do not think that the introduction of compulsory primary education in such particular areas will be a proper remedy?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: One method of compelling attendance which is now open to us is in the present circumstances likely to cause a great deal of hardship. We are now trying to find out whether there is any method of persuasion like giving concessions, changes in the hours of attendance etc. We are going on with this experiment to find out whether we can improve the attendance without actual compulsion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have not, Sir, the attempts of the Government in this line been a failure and have not produced the desired effect?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: We are still trying to improve upon our methods and we are still hopeful.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What Sir, are the difficulties of the Government in introducing compulsion?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: The question is too large. There is a cut motion on the question when I may be permitted to speak at length. I do not think this is the proper time to speak on the question whether compulsory primary education should be introduced in the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I have sent up a large number of questions, Sir, on this topic which I wanted to be answered before the discussions come up and from the number of questions that are placed before the table today, *i. e.*, 11 questions, my hopes for getting the answers in time are few and far between.

Mr. President: The proper time to discuss such things is when the cut motions are discussed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, has there been any request to the Government for permission to introduce compulsory primary education.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: There was an occasion when the bill was actually introduced.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the 5th Council, Sir, subsequent to Makaram last or in Makaram itself has there been any request from any Hon'ble Member of this House requesting the Government to give him sanction to introduce a Bill?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*; The Hon'ble Member could put an independent question on this subject and the Government will answer it very soon.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What exactly Sir, is the harm in answering this question. When a specific question is put they are expected to be ready with these answers. Why say like this when information is sought for useful purposes and to have a useful discussion on important subjects. We never expected such answers from the Government of Cochin which was very responsive and at times responsible.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: This question will be answered before the education budget is discussed.

Announcement of election of members to the Education Advisory Committee

Mr. President: Nomination papers for the election of members to the Education Advisory Committee will be handed over to the Council Secretary before 5 p.m. on 29th July 1943.

Condolence motion on the demise of Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: It is my sad duty to move this condolence motion that stands against my name on the untimely death of Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao, who from the year 1931 to 1939, was the Chief Medical Officer of the the State and an official Member of this House. The news of his death was a shock to most of us who had hoped that he would long be spared to enjoy his retired life at Coimbatore. Dr. Rao was so well known a figure that I don't think any reference at length on his career would be necessary.

He was born on the 8th of November 1884 of humble parents and had his early education in British Malabar. He then joined the Medical School at Royapuram and after a fairly distinguished course of studies, he entered service in British India as a Hospital Assistant.

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My acquaintance with Dr. Rao dates back from those days although I was only a young lad then. Before long he was attracted to this State and in 1907 was entertained in the Cochin State Medical Service as a Hospital Assistant on a very small pay. But Dr. Rao was a keen student and interested in his work, and above all an ambitious man. He commanded a lucrative practice and in about 6 years made enough money to go to England for higher studies. It was my privilege again to meet him and know him in London in 1915. He returned home after qualifying himself for M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P. and was appointed special assistant to the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, and thereby had made opportunities to acquaint himself with the administration of the department long before he actually became its head. He had a special course of study in Ophthalmology while in England and it was on his initiative that an Eye Section was started in the General Hospital, Ernakulam, and which has now developed into an Ophthalmic Hospital. By dint of perseverence he rose steadily in the profession and in 1922 was made the Senior Civil Surgeon and as such he served in Ernakulam and Trichur until he became the Chief Medical Officer in 1931. He made many improvement during his regime, to the hospitals of the State and was responsible for several of the final hospital buildings that are seen throughout the State now. He retired in 1939 after a remarkable period of service for 32 years.

Dr. Rao was essentially a self-made man. Born, as I have already said, in humble circumstances, he rose to the position of trust and responsibility that he occupied by sheer hard work and ability. It will be a long day before this State, his patients and his friends forget his genial personality and his unremitting labours in their behalf. Hon'ble Members who have seen him in action on the floor of this House will bear testimony to his power of persuasion and his zeal for the welfare of his department.

But it is not these aspects of Dr. Rao's life, great and interesting as they are, that I should like to touch upon this morning. It is on another aspect which is not often realised; there was little or no surgical work of any kind done in the State until Dr. Rao returned from England and took charge of the hospital, and indeed, he was the pioneer of surgical treatment in Cochin. Like all pioneers, he had his share of criticism and opposition; he had his fights with established traditions and the deadening weight of old superstition, but his was a faith that conquered. We could never forget men like him, for it is the work of such men that forms the real foundation of the advances that we have made and of the advance that we will make in the years to come. Dr. Rao's untimely death is indeed a great loss to the people and the profession. They have lost an able doctor and a genial friend. Our hearts are full of a sympathy for the dear ones he has left behind.

Now, Sir, I may be allowed to move this condolence motion formally for the acceptance of the House.

"This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow on the sudden and sad demise of Dr. Rao who was for some time the Chief Medical Officer of the State and an official member of this House".

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the Unionist Party I beg to associate myself with all the kind memories and sentiments of condolence expressed by the Hon'ble mover here. I too had occasion to move with Dr. Rao on very intimate terms years ago, and on many occasions I had the privilege of joining issues with him on the floor of this House and I have always found him very frank and outspoken; and energetic and thorough in all that he undertook. And above all he was a firm believer in the art of plain speaking without hiding anything. All Honour to his memory and our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family.

*__Rao Sahib I. N. Menon__ *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Sir, it has been my privilege to have known Dr. Rao for over 35 years. I first came into contact with him as a small boy in the capacity of a patient and it has been my privilege to see him rise from one position to another as was stated by the Hon'ble mover of the condolence resolution. I doubt very much if there are many members here probably with the exception of my Hon'ble friend the Diwan Peishkar and a couple of others who have known him as intimately as I have, and I feel that I am placed at a great disadvantage in the matter of making a speech on a motion like the present.

As a professional man a very eloquent testimony has already been given by the Chief Medical Officer, a brother in the profession. It is a noteworthy fact of his life that as a student of medicine he was considered sufficiently good and efficient to be appointed as an Assistant

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Resident Medical Officer. His work after his return from Europe is well-known to all of us here. In fact Col. Bradfield and Dr. Rangachari used to think very highly of Dr. Rao's work. And what I wish to say here is not about his work so much as is worth. It has been my privilege to sit along with him in the Treasury Bench of this House for a certain number of years and one thing which the Hon'ble Members must have noted about Dr. Rao was not exactly a good quality but one which cannot be ignored and that is he could not easily adopt himself to parliamentary methods. He was brought up as a professional man and if any one asked him about this profession he will flare up. I just remember once a question being put by an Hon'ble Member who unfortunately is no more—I refer to Mr. C. L. George—some question about some professional aspect of the work done in the General Hospital. Dr. Rao flared up, was furious and he had not completely exhausted his fury when he got out and when I got into the car along with him I feared I was liable to be assaulted and he said "The next thing that parliamentarians would ask me is how I write my prescriptions". That is the way in which he has been brought up. He was a public servant but it was not easy for him to adopt himself to methods of parliamentary procedure. It is very likely that people might have misunderstood him in that way. But it is very difficult to find another man with such rough exterior and a softer interior, a man who was all kindness to his patients and to his friends. The one single epithet which I think should characterise him most completely is that he was both upright and downright in all his dealings. I have enjoyed the advantages of his professional skill for many years and even as a patient apart from a member of this House I owed him great gratitude for the many acts of kindness. I am sure the same will be the case with many of the Hon'ble Members of this House. They must have been personally indebted to him for many acts of professional skill. I therefore have very great pleasure in associating myself both in my personal capacity and in the capacity of a member of this House with the condolence resolution that has been moved by my Hon'ble friend the member for medicine.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Sir, I associate myself with what has been said about Dr. Rao, since from the very beginning of his official career he had to fight against odds. He was a strict disciplinarian, and as a disciplinarian he had many enemies. His application to duty was grand. After becoming the Chief Medical Officer he has been very careful to provide supplies abundantly to all the hospitals in the State. And further, any hospital worth the name has been provided with operation theatres, the like of which cannot be found either in British Malabar or Travancore. I have not been fortunate enough to know about his medical acumen. But I can say that he was a very great administrator of the affairs of his Department. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)*: Sir, on behalf of the community I represent and on my own behalf I wish to associate myself with all that has been said by the Hon'ble mover of the motion on the floor of this House. Although my acquaintance with Dr. Rao was short, I knew him very intimately for the last few years and I am only sorry I have little to add to the glowing tributes that have been paid to the skill and ability of Dr. Rao by the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Public Instruction. His demise has been a great loss not only to the community and officialdum but to the public at large. I pray his soul may rest in peace.

*മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ : നിയ്യാതനായ ഡോക്ടർ റാവുവിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ഇങ്ങപ ത്തഞ്ചു കൊല്ലത്തെ പരിചയം എനിക്കുണ്ട്. എന്റെ ഒരുത്തമ സ്നേഹിതനുമായിരുന്ന അദ്ദേഹം കുറച്ചൊരു മുൻശുണ്ഠിയുള്ള ആളാണ്. വലിയ ശബ്ദത്തിലെ സംസാരിക്ക വാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. ഇതു രണ്ടും കൂട്ടുമ്പോൾ വലിയ ഒരു കോപിഷ്ടനാണെന്ന് വള രെ ജനങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ ഈ മുൻകോപം കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അ ദ്ദേഹത്തിനോട് ഏതു കാര്യവും സാധിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഫീസു കൊടുക്കാതെക്കൂടി അദ്ദേഹ ത്തിന്റെ (treatment) ട്രീറ്റ്മെന്റ് കിട്ടുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അത്ര വളരെ നല്ല ഒരു മനുഷ്യനായിരുന്നു. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്ത് ഈ മെഡിക്കൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരിൽ ഇത്ര സാമർത്ഥ്യവും പ്രാപ്തിയുമുള്ള ഒരു സർജനെ (Surgeon) നമ്മുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മെഡിക്കൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെ അ പ്പുൻ ഒഴികെ വേറൊരാളെ നമുക്ക് കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അ മഹാന്റെ ആ നിയ്യാണത്തിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആത്മാവിന്നു നിത്യശാന്തി നൽകുവാൻ ദൈവത്തോട് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I associate myself with the condolence resolution and the sentiments expressed in the House on the passing away of Dr. Rao. I wish to tell the House that I knew Dr. Rao from the day he came to Cochin, to the day he passed away. He was my next door neighbour at Ernakulam and the development of the Medical Department of Cochin State was *pari pasu* with the development of Dr. Rao. The Cochin Medical Department, it may be history for you to know, was controlled and guided by the British Cochin Civil Surgeon before Dr. Coombes, and after Dr. Coombes was appointed he found in Dr. Rao the one person on whose shoulders he could place all the responsibilties of the Medical Department and he gave him opportunities, seeing that he is a self-making man, to develop in the profession and in the art of surgery, so much so, that in spite of many seniors existing he chose him to be the Resident Medical Officer and gave him the house where the Sisters now live. He developed. He was an absolutely self-made man. He went over to England as has already been told by the Chief Medical Officer, qualified himself for higher degrees and came back to man the department. The present condition of the hospital may be said to be entirely due to Dr. Rao and Dr. Rao's initiative. He had identified himself with the institution and I know how he wept when he was transferred even at his own request for a while to Trichur as Civil Surgeon. He loved that institution. When Dr. Coombes was about to retire he said I feel happy in my retirement in thinking that I will be handing over this hospital and the Medical Department of the State into the hands of my trusted Assistant, Dr. Rao. For a while it was a great disappointment for him. But any way he lived to get it. He rose from the bottom of the ladder to the top by dint of sheer merit and professional skill. It is true that he was a man with a little rough exterior, and some naturally misunderstood him. But when all is said and done he had a heart and he had sympathy for his patients. He was very much appreciated by His Highness the Abdicated Maharaja as well as the late Maharaja and they have testified their appreciation by giving him encouragement that a State could give in the development of a person. It is such a man's demise that we are mourning today. Cochin in his retirement was not very far away and even in his retirement he has been requisitioned by many people to come to this State for treatment. Once again I beg to associate myself with all the sentiments expressed on the floor of this House, and join this expression of sympathy and condolence with his bereaved family.

Mr. President: On behalf of the Chair I associate myself with all that has been said on this resolution regarding the sudden and sad demise of Dr. Rao who was for some time the Chief Medical Officer of the State and an official member of this house. I request the house to pass it all standing.

Resolution passed all standing

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Amendment to Standing Order

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I move that the amendment to standing order S. O. 5 (1) be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Cochin Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I beg to move that the Cochin Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Announcement of the change of time of the Countil

Mr. President: From tomorrow onwards the House will meet at 11-30 and the interval will be from 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

General Discussion on the Budget

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the Government on their being fortunate to place before the House a surplus budget. On a perusal of the receipts it will be seen that they have been able to attain that position by the increase chiefly under two items—Customs and Abkari and Ganja. The increase in the former must be considered

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